

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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GENEVA FOR TELATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:UPU, ETEL, PORG

SUBJECT:UPU - MEETING OF GENEVA SUB-GROUP IN BERN, MAY 4

REF: (A) STATE 070582, (B) GENEVA 2065

BERN: PASS TO EDGAR STOCK, U.S. POSTAL SERVICE VIA ADMIN
OFFICER

1. COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL ITEMS OF UK-US AMALGAMATED SUB-
GROUP AGENDA AS PROPOSED REFTEL B FOLLOW:

A- UPU BUDGETS 1977 AND 1978: (1) WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE
1977 ADJUSTED BUDGET REDUCED, IF ONLY BY 0.7 PERCENT,
COMPARED TO THAT APPROVED AT LAST YEAR'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(EC) MEETING. SIMILARLY WE ARE GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT THE
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INTERNATIONAL BUREAU (IB) HAS HELD THE DRAFT 1978 BUDGET
TO A 2.6 PERCENT OVER THE ADJUSTED 1977 BUDGET. (2) WE
PARTICULARLY NOTE THE ABSORPTION OF THE G-LEVEL SALARY
INCREASES (FROM JANUARY 1, 1977) WITHIN THE ADJUSTED 1977
BUDGET AND THE SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS (\$114,200) MADE OVER
THE ESTIMATES GIVEN LAST YEAR FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF
ENGLISH, ARABIC AND SPANISH AS DOCUMENT LANGUAGES. THE

DIRECTOR GENERAL IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR HOLDING HIS STAFF AT

130 DURING THIS TWO YEAR PERIOD AND WE NOTE WITH APPROVAL HIS POLICY OF KEEPING VACANT POSITIONS UNFILLED UP TO SIX MONTHS WHENEVER POSSIBLE AS A UNIQUE METHOD OF DETERMINING THE REAL IMPORTANCE OF A GIVEN POSITION.

(3) THE SWISS DESK INFORMS US THAT INFLATION IN SWITZERLAND WAS UNDER FOUR PERCENT IN 1976 AND WILL PROBABLY BE EVEN LESS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. ACCORDINGLY, WE SHOULD EXPECT MINIMUM IMPACT OF INFLATION ON UPU BUDGETS.

(4) COMMENTS REGARDING INDIVIDUAL BUDGET ITEMS:

(A) ITEM 113: NON-RESIDENT ALLOWANCES: SF 32,400 FOR BOTH 1977 AND 1978 TO BE PAID TO 18 OFFICIALS AT THE RATE OF SF 1800 ANNUALLY. FOR THE SAKE OF SOME FUTURE BUDGET, WE QUESTION THE RATIONALE OF PAYING A NON-RESIDENT ALLOWANCE TO A PERMANENT EMPLOYEE AFTER THE INITIAL YEAR OR TWO OF ADJUSTMENT TO HIS NEW SITUATION HAS BEEN OVERCOME. FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN BERN FOR MANY YEARS, IT SEEMS RIDICULOUS. THE SUB-GROUP MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WORKING FOR A CHANGE IN THE STAFF REGULATIONS TO REFORM THIS PROVISION.

(B) ITEM 116: SUPPLEMENTARY STAFF: SF 3,000 INCREASE IS PROPOSED FOR 1978 OVER 1977; HOWEVER, STATEMENT IN SUPPORTING NARRATIVE (PG. 11) READS "THE INITIAL CREDITS NEED NOT BE ADJUSTED. AN ANNUAL INCREASE OF SF 3,000 IS NEVERTHELESS PROPOSED FOR 197;.

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QUESTION THE PRACTICE OF ADDING FUNDS (EVEN SF 3,000, APPROX. 1,200 DOLLARS) WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION OR ANTICIPATED USE.

(C) ARTICLE 13 - RECRUITMENT AND SEPARATION: ADJUSTED 77 BUDGET SHOWS 31 PERCENT INCREASE OVER APPROVED BUDGET. 1978 BUDGET DROPS 28 PERCENT. ONLY EXPLANATION GIVEN IS THAT FORECASTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY REVISED. REQUEST CLARIFICATION.

(D) ARTICLE 17: UPU CONSULTANTS: THIS IS LOOSELY STRUCTURED BUDGET ITEM, ASSUMING EXPENSE OF SF 759,000 (APPROX. 300,000 DOLLARS, AND EQUIVALENT OF SOME 55 CONTRIBUTION UNITS) WITHOUT SUPPORTING JUSTIFICATION, EXCEPT EXPLANATION THAT NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS AND DURATION OF MISSIONS CANNOT BE DETERMINED IN ADVANCE. SOME JUSTIFICATION IS NEEDED FOR THIS MAJOR ITEM, SUCH AS EXPERIENCE TO DATE (MAY 1977). WHAT IS ESTIMATE OF OFF-SETTING PORTION TO BE FINANCED BY CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIONS? SHOULD NOT THIS EXPENSE ITEM BE INCLUDED IN UNDP ADMIN OVERHEAD AS SHOWN IN CE/C2-DOC 14/REV 1/ANNEX 2?

(E) ITEM 232: TRAVEL OF EC AND CCPS MEMBER COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES: SF 192,900 (1977), SF 200,100 (1978).

ITU AND UPU ARE PERHAPS ONLY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHICH PAY FOR MEMBERS' TRAVEL TO EC MEETINGS (AND FOR TWO ECONOMICALLY LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBERS TO MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR POSTAL STUDIES). WHILE THE COUNCIL IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR REDUCING THE COMMITMENT FROM FIRST CLASS TO ECONOMY CLASS AIR TRAVEL, WE SHOULD PREFER ITS ELIMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL PRACTICE WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. WE, OF COURSE, WELCOME OTHER OPINIONS WITHIN THE SUB-GROUP.

(F) ITEM 271: LIBRARY EXPENDITURES: THE '76 EC APPROVED SF 16,000 - ACTUALLY SPENT WAS SF 12,880. NOW THE IB REQUESTS SF 20,000 FOR 77 AND 78. IN VIEW OF PAST HISTORY, WE SEE NO REASONS FOR SUCH A DRASTIC INCREASE.

(G) ITEM 273: PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIAL: SF 15,000
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IN BOTH BUDGETS, UP FROM SF 12,271 IN 1976. WE PROPOSE REDUCING THIS BY AT LEAST ONE-HALF ON THE GROUNDS THAT AN ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF ALMOST ALL THE INDEPENDENT STATES IN THE WORLD HAS LITTLE NEED FOR PR WORK.

(H) ITEM 291: HOSPITALITY EXPENSES OF THE UNION:

SF 30,500 (1977) SF 31,500 (1978): WE ADVOCATE ELIMINATING MOST OF THIS. AT THE ITU MEETINGS, DELEGATES PAY FOR THEIR OWN COFFEE, TEA, ETC. AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY THE UPU SHOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT POLICY (SF 6500). WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP COULD SACRIFICE THE IB RECEPTIONS GIVEN AT MEETINGS (SF 20,500 AND SF 21,000) AS DOES THE ITU.

(I) ITEM 421: TECHNICAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: AS A SMALL EXECUTING AGENCY OF THE UNDP (ONE WITH LESS THAN 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN PROJECTS) THE UPU HAS BEEN REIMBURSED FOR ITS ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN ADDITION TO THOSE COVERED UNDER THE 14 PERCENT FORMULA. WE EXPECT THIS TO CONTINUE. TO REFUSE TO MAKE ANY ESTIMATE FOR 1978 SIMPLY DISTORTS THE FINAL BUDGET. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE IB INCLUDE SOME SORT OF REALISTIC PROJECTION FOR THIS ANTICIPATED REIMBURSEMENT.

B. PROGRAM BUDGETING IN CONTEXT MEDIUM TERM PLAN: STOCK WILL HAVE POSITION PAPER. WE SUPPORT DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY. THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED PROGRAM BUDGETING AND MEDIUM TERM PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

C. NEW LANGUAGE SYSTEM FOR DOCUMENTS: IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE DISCUSSION AT THE SUB-GROUP DRIFTS INTO GENERAL LANGUAGE QUESTIONS, U.S. MAY POINT OUT U.S.

CONCERNS ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF LANGUAGES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. STOCK WILL HAVE PAPERS CONCERNING EC DOCUMENTS ON (1) POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF THREE MORE

DOCUMENT LANGUAGES AND (2) POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF ONE UNCLASSIFIED

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OR MORE NEW SECRETARIAT LANGUAGES. IN GENERAL, WE OPPOSE NO LANGUAGE PER SE, BUT RATHER BELIEVE THAT EACH LANGUAGE GROUP SHOULD PAY FOR ITS OWN USE.

D. TERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE: AS REPORTED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, THE U.S. AND FRANCE GAVE NOTICE OF RENUNCIATION OF OUR SECOND MEMBERSHIPS LAST YEAR. THE U.S. RENUNCIATION BECOMES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978. THEREAFTER, U.S. ADHERENCE TO THE UPU UNDER ARTICLE 23 OF THE CONSTITUTION WILL INCLUDE THOSE AREAS FOR WHICH THE U.S. PREVIOUSLY HAD SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP AND FOR WHICH IT HAS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE INFORMED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT THE U.S. DID NOT INTEND TO COMMENT ON THE QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING THIS MATTER.

2. WE ASSUME THAT GS SALARIES AND P-5 VACANCIES WERE ALSO ADDED TO ULTIMATE AGENDA AS REQUESTED REFTEL A. AS REGARDS GS SALARIES AND CE/C 1-DOC 17, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT UPU'S PATTERNING OF G-LEVEL SALARIES FOR BERN ON THOSE FOR GENEVA CONFORMS WITH THE INTENT OF THE UN COMMON SYSTEM AS IS IMPLIED IN DOC 17. GS CATEGORY SALARIES SHOULD BE BASED ON CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN THE LOCALITY CONCERNED. ICSC DOCUMENT ICSAB/INF.3 SECTION V, PARAGRAPH 29, REQUIRES CONDUCTING WAGE SURVEYS IN CITIES WHERE OFFICES OF COMMON SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS ARE LOCATED AND CONSTRUCTING LOCAL GS SCALES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESULTS. WE ASSUME THAT THE SALARIES ARE LOWER IN BERN.

3. NEW MATTER HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH SUB-GROUP. IF NOT FORMALLY ON AGENDA, THEN REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD MAKE HIS POINTS INFORMALLY AS APPROPRIATE. SEPTTEL RE CE/C 1-DOC 19 AND TERMINATION INDEMNITY TO FOLLOW. IN SHORT, DOC 19 RECOMMENDS THAT UPU FOLLOW ICSC AND COMMON SYSTEM RECOMMENDATION UNCLASSIFIED

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AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE HEAD OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY, AT HIS

DISCRETION, TO INCREASE TERMINATION INDEMNITY BY UP TO
50 PERCENT. HOWEVER, 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY REJECTED
THIS RECOMMENDATION AND, THEREFORE, PARAGRAPH 1 (D) OF
THE PROPOSED CHANGE IN REGULATION 9.6 SHOULD BE DELETED.
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